CITY HALL
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

May 31, 2019

Councilmember Greig Smith
City of Los Angeles, 12th District
200 N. Spring St., Room 405
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Honorable Jim Beall, Chair, Committee on Transportation
State Capitol, Room 2082
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair, Committee on Public Safety
State Capitol, Room 5094
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **Opposition to AB 516 (Chiu) Authority to Remove Vehicles**

Dear Honorable Chairs:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to AB 516 (Chiu). This bill would negatively impact businesses and residents in my district and across the City of Los Angeles. While there is no doubt that retrieving a vehicle from impound can be expensive, other policies should be considered to address this issue. Severely curbing the ability of local jurisdictions to regulate their right-of-ways will only encourage scofflaw behavior, create blight and public health issues, as well as severely hamper the ability of law enforcement to identify owners of vehicles involved in crimes.

As currently written, AB 516 would prohibit the City of Los Angeles from removing vehicles that have been left in the public right-of-way for over 72 hours. This prohibition would allow individuals to park anywhere, no matter posted parking restrictions, without fear of repercussions. In addition, this bill removes the ability of local governments to tow or immobilize

vehicles with five or more unpaid parking citations, further reducing the City's ability to collect on parking citations and discourage scofflaw behavior.

In addition, this bill will prohibit the towing of vehicles with registration that is six months or more out of date. This will encourage individuals to stop registering their vehicles, and make it difficult for law enforcement to find the owners of vehicles involved in crimes. Vehicle registration is also a significant factor in ensuring that vehicles on the road are safe to operate and are in compliance with the state's emission laws. Further, a portion of vehicle license fees is set aside for road reconstruction projects through SB 1. Removing the deterrent for non-registration will only encourage individuals to stop registering their vehicles, impacting our public safety, environment and tax receipts.

While well intentioned, AB 516 should not be advanced. If the legislature wishes to address the problems faced by low income drivers, other policies should be considered. As an example, the City of Los Angeles offers a program that provides parking citation payment plans for indigent individuals, and operates a program which allows individuals experiencing homelessness to pay their citations through community service or enrollment in a homeless services program. Programs like these would be better suited for this problem than removing all enforcement ability and encouraging scofflaw behavior.

Sincerely,

Greig Smith
City of Los Angeles
Councilmember, 12th District

cc: The Honorable David Chiu
Members, Senate Committee on Transportation
Members, Senate Committee on Public Safety
Los Angeles Senate Delegation